

# Croatia

## Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS)

### FACT SHEET . . . . .



The Croatia GYTS includes data on prevalence of cigarette and other tobacco use as well as information on five determinants of tobacco use: access/availability and price, environmental tobacco smoke exposure (ETS), cessation, media and advertising, and school curriculum. These determinants are components Croatia could include in a comprehensive tobacco control program. The Croatia GYTS was a school-based survey of students in Primary 6-8 and First Secondary, conducted in 2002.

A two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for all of Croatia plus Zagreb, other urban, and rural areas. At the first stage, schools were selected with probability proportional to enrollment size. At the second stage, classes were randomly selected and all students in selected classes were eligible to participate. The school response rate was 100.0%, the student response rate was 93.4%, and the overall response rate was 93.4%. A total of 5,038 students participated in the Croatia GYTS.

### Prevalence

- 59.9% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boy = 62.5%, Girl = 56.3%)
- 17.4% currently use any tobacco product (Boy = 19.3%, Girl = 14.8%)
- 16.6% currently smoke cigarettes (Boy = 18.5%, Girl = 14.3%)
- 3.6% current daily cigarette smokers (Boy = 3.8%, Girl = 3.0%)
- 8.5% currently smoke cigars (Boy = 9.0%, Girl = 7.5%)
- 39.1% ever smokers initiated smoking before age 10 (Boy = 41.4%, Girl = 37.3%)
- 17.0% never smokers likely to initiate smoking next year (Boy = 17.3%, Girl = 16.8%)

### Access and Availability - Current Smokers

- 33.5% usually smoke at social occasions
- 56.3% buy cigarettes in a store
- 88.7% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

### Environmental Tobacco Smoke

- 94.2% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
- 89.7% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
- 76.8% think smoking should be banned from public places
- 62.3% think smoke from others is harmful to them
- 59.6% have one or more parents who smoke
- 13.6% have most or all friends who smoke

### Cessation - Current Smokers

- 49.9% want to stop smoking
- 73.5% tried to stop smoking during the past year
- 52.6% have ever received help to stop smoking
- 9.7% feel like having a cigarette first thing in the morning

### Media and Advertising

- 94.4% saw anti-smoking messages vs. 71.7% saw pro messages on TV
- 73.1% saw anti messages vs. 53.1% saw pro messages on billboards
- 65.4% saw anti ads vs. 60.1% saw pro ads in newspapers or magazines
- 15.4% have an object with a cigarette brand logo
- 6.6% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

### School

- 57.4% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking
- 45.8% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke
- 47.1% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

### Highlights

- 17% of students currently use any form of tobacco; 17% currently smoke cigarettes; 4% current daily smokers; 8% currently smoke cigars; 17% never smokers likely to initiate smoking next year.
- ETS exposure is very high – Over 9 in 10 students live in homes where others smoke in their presence; Almost 9 in 10 are exposed to smoke in public places; 6 in 10 have parents who smoke.
- 6 in 10 students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- Almost 8 in 10 students think smoking in public places should be banned.
- 5 in 10 smokers want to quit; 1 in 10 feel like having a cigarette first thing in the morning.
- 9 in 10 students saw anti-smoking messages on TV vs. 7 in 10 saw pro messages; 7 in 10 saw anti messages on billboards vs. 5 in 10 saw pro messages; 6 in 10 saw anti ads in newspapers vs. 6 in 10 saw pro ads.
- Almost 6 in 10 taught in school about dangers of smoking.

For additional information, please contact:

Tanja Coric [tanja.coric@hzjz.hr](mailto:tanja.coric@hzjz.hr)